

Message Text

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11
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 031411Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3798
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 2439

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MPOL, GY
SUBJECT: PM ADDRESS AT MILITIA DAY CEREMONIES

REF: GEORGETOWN 2354

SUMMARY: BURNHAM, IN ADDRESS AT OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF
GUYANA PEOPLES MILITIA(GPM), EMPHASIZED MILITIA IS PART OF
TOTAL GOG MOBILIZATION OF FORCES FOR DEFENSE. GPM MEMEBERS
ARE TO BE EYES AND EARS OF STATE IN FIELD, OFFICES,
FACTORIES, AND COMMUNITIES TO COOPERATE WITH POLICE TO
APPREHDD RUMOR MONGERS, QUISLINRP AND SABOTEURS.
BURNHAM WARNED OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL ENEMIES WHO ARE
SEEKING TO DESTABILIZE GUYANA AND DETER COUNTRY FROM PATH
OF SOCIALISM. END SUMMARY.

1. GPM WAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON DECEMBER 1 WITH A
PARADE, A SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER
FESTIVITIES. SELECTED MILITIA UNITS MARCHED FROM
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THE NATIONAL PARK IN

GEORGETOWN TO THE GUYANA
DEFENCE FORCE (GDF) HEADQUARTERS AT CAMP AYANGANNA
WHERE BURNHAM TOOK THE SALUTE AS THEY PASSED IN
REVIEW. HIGHLIGHT OF FESTIVITIES WAS ADDRESS BY
PRIME MINISTER TO MILITIA UNITS.

2. BURNHAM'S SPEECH FOLLOWED A FAIRLY PREDICTABLE
PATTERN BUT WITH A REASONABLY RESTRAINED TONE. HE
EMPHASIZED THAT GPM WAS ONE OF FOUR GUYANESE
QZUSTER OF FORCES (GDF, POLICE, NATIONAL SERVICE
CORPS AND GPM) WHOSE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE INTEGRATED
WITH EACH GIVEN A ROLE DURING AN EMERGENCY. THE FOUR
DIFFERENT UNITS REPRESENTED THE TOTAL NATIONAL
MOBILIZED FORCE IN GUYANA AND THE MEMBERS OF EACH
FORCE WERE PLEDGED TO DEFEND GUYANA AT EVERY LEVEL.
WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY PETTY DIFFERENCES TO ARISE
BETWEEN THESE FORCES. HE CHARACTERIZED GPM AS ANOTHER
LINK IN TOTAL MOBILIZATION OF COUNTRY WITH THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GUYANA AND OTHER COUNTRIES
BEING THAT GUYANA IS MOBILIZING QUOTE FOR DEFENSE
NOT CONQUEST UNQUOTE.

3. BURNHAM STATED PRIMARY FUNCTION OF GPM IS TO
BE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AFTER GDF. GPM IS TO
COOPERATE WITH POLICE IN LOCAL AREAS BY BEING EYES
AND EARS OF STATE WHEREVER THEY MAY BE IN
COMMUNITIES, FIELD, OFFICES OR FACTORIES. GPM
MUST BE VIGILANT TO SPOT COUNTRY'S ENEMIES WHO HAD
QUOTE LARGE ARMOURY INCLUDING SABOTAGE, HIRING OF
QUISLINGS AND SPREADING RUMORS TO DESTABLIZE
GUYANA UNQUOTE. VURNHAM CONTINUED THAT GPM HAS
SERIOUS TASK AND MEMBERS MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP
IN ANY TYPE OF EMERGENCY.

4. PRIME MINISTER ALLUDED TO LOCAL ORIENTATION OF
MILITIA BUT WARNED THAT MILITIA MAY BE MOBILIZED AND
MOVED TO OTHER AREAS OF COUNTRY AS REQUIRED. HE
EMPHASIZED THE GPM WOULD NOT BE AN AMATEUR
ORGANIZATION AND WOULD BE NEEDED BECAUSE GUYANA
HAD CHOSEN THE PATH TO SOCIALISM AND SO BECAME
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A TARGET OF THOSE WHO WANTED TO PERPETUATE THE
OLD CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BURNHAM MENTIONED NO
COUNTRY BY NAME, HE WAS OBVIOUSLY ALLUDING TO
THE U.S. WITH THE MENTION OF CAPITALISTS AND
DESTABILIZATION. BURNHAM'S MENTION OF
INTERNAL ENEMIES, THOUGH, COULD BE CONSTRUED TO BE

AIMED AT THE PPP WHICH WHILE ANNOUNCING ITS SUPPORT
FOR THE GPM HAS BEEN COMPLAINING THAT THE GPM
HAS RACIALLY AND POLITICALLY DISCRIMINATED IN ITS
RECRUITMENT.

THE MOST OMINOUS AND BELIEVED SIGNIFICANT
OVERTONE IN BURNHAM'S SPEECH OF THINGS TO COME
WERE HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO GPM MEMBERS TO BE
QUOTE VIGILANT UNQUOTE. ONE CAN NOW IMAGINE
BLOCK, FACTORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES FORMING WITH
GPM MEMBERS REPORTING TO POLICE OF THOSE
SUSPECTED OF ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES. THIS WOULD
BE JUST ONE MORE STEP DOWN THE ROAD TO AN
AUTHORITARIAN STATE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BY THE
BURNHAM GOVERNMENT.
MCCOY

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